

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4098

LIMDIS

FROM AMB. SCALI FOR AMB. BUFFUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNICEF, US, VS, VN

SUBJ: UNICEF ASSISTANCE FOR NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG

REF: A) STATE A-7682; B) JUNE 20, 1974 POSITION PAPER
FOR ECOSOC; C) MAY 8, 1974 POSITION PAPER FOR UNICEFBOARD

1. I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INTERPRET US
LEGISLATION IN A MANNER WHICH WILL AVOID A CONFTONTATION
WITH UNICEF SHOULD THAT ORGANIZATION DESPITE OUR STRONG
OPPOSITION, DECIDE TO USE FUNDS FROM ITS GENERAL RESERVE
FOR PROGRAMS IN NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG CONTROLLED
AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM. I QUESTION HOWEVER WHETHER WE
WISH AT THIS TIME IN EFFECT TO REVERSE OUR POSITION TO
THE EXTENT OF ACTUALLY GOING OUT OF OUR WAY TO ENCOURAGE
UNICEF AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO THESE AREAS.

2. THE POSITION WE TOOK PRIVATELY, AND PUBLICLY
DURING THE UNICEF BOARD MEETING LAST MAY AND AT THIS
SUMMER'S ECOSOC SESSION, ON INSTRUCTION FROM DEPARTMENT
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REF. B AND C) WAS NOT THAT USE OF UNICEF'S GENERAL RESERVE

FOR AID TO NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG WAS CONTRARY TO U.S. LAW, BUT THAT IT WAS CONTRARY TO U.S. POLICY. UNICEF HAS THE RIGHT TO GO AHEAD OVER OUR OBJECTIONS, BUT I SEE NO REASON ACTIVELY TO ENCOURAGE IT TO DO SO.

3. MR WENZEL IN HIS JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE TESTIMONY OF JULY 18, 1974 (REFA) STATED THAT "AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF OUR POLICY SINCE THE JANUARY 27, 1973 CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN TO ENCOURAGE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF INDOCHINA." I BELIEVE THAT TO TRANSMIT MR WENZEL'S TESTIMONY TO UNICEF OFFICIALLY AS IS SUGGESTED REF A WOULD ENCOURAGE UNICEF OFFICIALS TO BELIEVE THAT EITHER A) THAT THE U.S CONCERNS ABOUT THE USE OF UNICEF'S GENERAL RESERVE EXPRESSED HERE AND AT ECOSOC WERE NOT ACCURATE REPRESENTATIONS OF THEN U.S POLICY OR B) THAT MR WENZEL'S STATEMENT TO THE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE IMPLYING THAT U.S. POLICY HAS BEEN CONSISTENT SINCE JANUARY 1973 WAS MISLEADING. I AM SURE THAT NEITHER OF THESE ASSUMPTIONS IS ACCURATE.

4. I AM DISTURBED THAT U.S. POLICY ON THIS QUESTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY AMPLIFIED AND PERHAPS MODIFIED WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH ME OR ANY OF MY STAFF. SUCH AN ABRUPT REVERSAL OF VIEWS FORCEFULLY EXPOUNDED UNDER DEPT'S INSTRUCTION WILL OBVIOUSLY CREATE DIFFICULTIES SHOULD WE

WISH AT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE TO PUT FORWARD OTHER STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ABOUT THE WAY OUR MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT BY VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

5. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE UNICEF SECRETARIAT HAS ALREADY BEEN APPRISED, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OF MR WENZEL'S TESTIMONY, AND HAS ACCEPTED IT AS A MODIFICATION OF U.S. POLICY. I BELIEVE THAT TO REINFORCE THAT IMPRESSION BY OFFICIALLY TRANSMITTING THIS TESTIMONY WOULD DAMAGE OUR CREDIBILITY AND MIGHT EVEN ENCOURAGE UNICEF AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO STEP UP AID TO NORTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG, POSSIBLY AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR PROGRAMS WITH THE GVN.

6. IT APPEARS THAT UNICEF IS GOING TO USE SOME OF ITS GENERAL RESERVE FOR NORTH VIETNAM DESPITE OUR PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOW, AT A WORKING

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LEVEL, INDICATE TO UNICEF'S SECRETARIAT THAT THE WENZEL TESTIMONY DOES NOT REVERSE OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED POLICY OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A USE OF THE GENERAL RESERVE. IF UNICEF PROCEEDS OVER OUR CONTINUED OBJECTIONS AS APPEARS LIKELY. I BELIEVE THAT AT NEXT SPRING'S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WE SHOULD, FOR THE RECORD, BUT ON A LOW KEY EXPRESS OUR REGRET THAT THEY HAVE DONE SO. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. SCALI

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